



# WEATHER CROP



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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Week ending February 3, 2008

## WARM DAYS, COOL NIGHTS, SPRING PLANTING IN PROGRESS

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** Florida received a cold front early in the week which dropped nighttime lows mostly into the 30s and 40s. A few inches of rain were spotted in the Panhandle. Jackson and Santa Rosa counties received between one and three inches last week, respectively. Other areas of the Panhandle received less than half an inch, daily temperatures for the major cities reached the 70s, and 80s; while lows were in the 20s to mid-60s. Daytime temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to the mid-80s; low temperatures ranged from the upper 20s to the low 50s.

**FIELD CROPS:** Fieldwork continued last week as recent rains improved soil moisture conditions in some areas of the Panhandle. Potato planting was steady in central Florida while harvesting was in planning stages for some counties in the southern Peninsula. Hay supply was very low in parts of the Panhandle. Soil moisture was adequate in Gadsden and Washington counties. Overall, topsoil moisture in the Panhandle and Big Bend was mostly short with an adequate supply of subsoil moisture. Central and southern Florida topsoil moisture was very short to short; subsoil was adequate.

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	7	4	10	9	11	14
Short	33	19	36	33	42	36
Adequate	59	76	41	57	47	41
Surplus	1	1	13	1	0	9

**VEGETABLES:** Harvesting continued last week and spring planting began in the southern Peninsula. However, freeze damage caused a decline in the volume and quality of the remaining winter crop in southern Florida. The demand for strawberries continued to be good in Plant City. Cabbage, broccoli, collard, and kale continued to be harvested in the tri-county area of central Florida's Flagler, St. Johns, and Putnam counties. Harvesting also continued in Fort Myers of collards, peppers, cabbage, kale, and Swiss chard. Other vegetables that moved through the market last week were beans, cucumbers, cabbage, celery, endive, escarole, eggplant, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and radishes.

**LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES:** In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture condition was very poor to good with most in poor condition. In Gadsden County, the supply of hay was very low. Winter forages, where planted, were finally coming to grazing status. Stock ponds were filling from recent rains. The condition of cattle was very poor to good with most in fair condition. In central areas, pasture was very poor to good with most in fair condition. Pasture condition improved following recent rain in Sumter County. Many locations were still very dry. The condition of cattle was very poor to good with most in fair condition. In the southwestern areas, pasture was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Statewide, cattle condition was very poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	5	5	10	20
Poor	15	15	20	20
Fair	30	25	45	45
Good	45	50	24	10
Excellent	5	5	1	5

**CITRUS:** Temperatures by the end the week were unseasonably warm and conditions very dry in the complete citrus growing region. Highs reached the low to mid-80s in all areas. A weak front brought scattered, light rainfall of less than one tenth of an inch of rain to the central growing region. All other areas received no rain. Growers are continuing with irrigation programs, pesticide spraying, and hedging and topping. Overall, trees and fruit were in good condition with good fruit sets. Reports show fresh grapefruit sizes relatively small compared to past seasons. Across the citrus industry, growers and researchers were looking for the best way to address the greening situation. Aggressive production practices, scouting techniques, and removal of abandoned groves was being used to control greening. Other scientific methods were being discussed to combat the citrus psyllid. Navel orange, Sunburst tangerine, and Orlando tangelo harvest was almost over for the season. Early and midseason orange harvest reached its peak level at over six million boxes a week. Harvest continued through mid to late March before transitioning to Valencias. Varieties being harvested included early, midseason, Navel, and Temple oranges; grapefruit; Sunburst and Honey tangerines; and tangelos.

ESTIMATED BOXES HARVESTED - WEEK ENDED			
Crop	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 03
	<i>In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes</i>		
Early and Mid oranges	6,199	6,202	5,452
Navel oranges	52	43	45
Temples	26	27	30
Grapefruit	806	810	729
Sunburst tangerines	66	38	10
Honey tangerines	103	84	112
Tangelos	150	135	88

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